

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Applicant's Priority Claim

The Examiner has yet again failed to acknowledge Applicant's claim to foreign priority, despite Applicant having raised the matter repeatedly in past submissions. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge Applicant's claim to foreign priority and indicate receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed on May 5, 2004. Alternatively, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate why the foreign priority is not acknowledged. Applicant respectfully notes that a certified copy of the priority document is available on USPTO website (FRPR "Certified Copy of the Priority Application" May, 5, 2004, 14 pages).

II. Applicant's Response to the Office Action

In the Office Action dated March 17, 2009, the Examiner has now allowed claims 1-6 and rejects only claim 7, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Chen et al (US 6,507,856 B1), in view of Takagi et al (US 5,109,152), and further in view of a newly cited U.S. patent, Dillon et al (US 5,109,152).

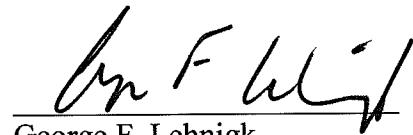
In order to expedite prosecution and without endorsing the Examiner's grounds of rejection or the correctness of the rejection itself, Applicant cancels claim 7. Apart from the priority claim issue noted above, all issues appear to be addressed and resolved, such that the application can now proceed to allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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